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THE SURREY INVESTIGATION GROUP ON AERIAL PHENOMENA
(S.I.G.A.P.)
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Secretary: Telephone Guildford 63381

Newsletter No. 13

June 1, 1968.

The Surrey Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena is affiliated to the British Unidentified Flying Object Research Association and their united aims are to promote unbiased investigation and research into the "Unidentified Flying Object Phenomena".

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+ Star-shaped UFO over Woking +
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S.I.G.A.P. has just received an interesting report of a white star-shaped UFO which passed over Woking one evening last November.

It was seen by Mr. B.R.Lee, a T.V. and radio engineer, of 224 Walton Road, Woking. He is unable to give us the exact date of the sighting but says it was on a Monday in the latter part of the month. Here is Mr. Lee's account of the sighting:-

"At approximately 8.30 p.m. two friends called for me, as expected, at my home. They told me that on their way they had seen a UFO. I was sceptical and at first thought they were pulling my leg. But they suggested I should go outside and see for myself, which I did. We went to a point in Walton Road where there was a gap in the buildings - at the junction of Walton Road and Omega Road - and looking towards the south and upwards at an angle of 60° I saw an object resembling a white star moving in a westerly direction. The object was moving in an erratic zig-zag manner deviating up and down from its mean course. It appeared to be travelling at a very high speed. The distance travelled at arm's length was 15 inches. The light with which the object glowed varied in intensity. At its brightest it appeared as an average star, but frequently dimmed to a lesser intensity. These changes in brightness were quite haphazard. Both the changes in brightness and movement followed no obviously noticeable pattern. We watched the object for approximately ten minutes. My friends had previously watched it, before calling for me, for some 15 minutes. After a while we decided to leave because of the cold. When we left the object was still behaving in the same manner. It did not explode, change shape, emit smoke or vapour or make any noise while we observed it. Neither did it move in front of or behind anything. We did not have any kind of optical equipment. I have good eyesight though. I cannot estimate the size, speed or height of the object accurately". Mr. Lee says that the sky was clear at the time of the sighting.

Pirbright member Robert Skinner has donated a copy of "The Flying Saucer Conspiracy" by Donald Keyhoe, to the group.

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+ Sightings From The Past +
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A huge green cigar-shaped UFO with dark markings down the middle was seen by astronomer James Maunder from the now disused Guildown Observatory, near Guildford, on November 17, 1882.

It was seen by a number of people and estimated to be between 40 and 200 miles high. "Definite in form with a mottled appearance and shaped like a torpedo" was the description given by observers.

The object was moving too fast for a cloud and was not a meteor either. Rand Capron said it was of an auroral nature, but other scientists disagreed, stating it was definitely a material object. (From "Flying Saucers Have Landed", Leslie, 1953; and "Case For The UFO", Jessup, 1955).

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A grey elliptical-shaped UFO hovered over Broadwater, a lake near Godalming, on May 25, 1960.

Mrs. Vera Bowden (35), of Barnet Lane, Womersley, her son Nigel and his friend Paul Foster, saw it while picknicking on Chinthurst Hill two miles away.

Mrs. Bowden, who reported the sighting to the police, said the object was visible for about a quarter of an hour before it moved off towards the west and disappeared in the distance. She said it didn't make any noise and "looked to me just above the treetops. It was very clear and quite unlike anything I've seen before". (From "Flying Saucer Review", Vol. 5 No. 5).

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S.I.G.A.P. member Dan Butcher, who lives at "The Ridge", Green Lane East, Ash Green, has sent in two possible UFO reports from the past:-

"Late one summer evening during the early 1950's my mother became excited because of a rosy red light she could see in the distance behind some trees. 'There is such a peculiar light over towards Inwood Barn' (just off the Hog's Back), she told me. 'It looks like a bonfire, but it is big and I am sure it is not a bonfire'. There was a peculiar intonation in her voice, as if she were somewhat awestruck. I, for some unfathomable reason, refused to go and look. Later I became aware that a number of our neighbours had gathered at the bottom of their gardens and were watching the light with my mother. After some time - perhaps 20 minutes - the group broke up and my mother came indoors. But after that she went to the bedroom window and reported that the light was still there. She kept reporting it for about an hour. The weather was clear and settled. Unfortunately my mother is now dead and her friends who also saw the light have moved from Ash Green. Some time later we received a current issue of 'Everybody's Weekly' - and this should greatly aid the approximation of the date - which contained an article on flying saucers, including the story of Mantell's UFO chase. My mother read this and once again became excited, avowing that this was what she had seen, a flying saucer.

"I once asked an old man, now dead, who lived at Ash Vale in some old people's cottages almost opposite the entrance to Firacre Road, if he had ever seen a fireball. This was just after a well-known and prominent fir tree had been struck by lightning in a one-flash storm at Ash Vale a few years ago. I asked him because he was an old resident of Ash. He pondered awhile and then said yes. Sometime during the 1920's - he could not give the exact year - when he lived in Ash Street, he and many of his neighbours had stood in their back gardens and watched a fireball travelling slowly along the length of the Hog's Back".

Editor's note: Fireballs are a larger and brighter type of shooting star or meteor, generally 1-10 cm. in size, though sometimes larger. Like the shooting stars they are stony or metallic particles which become incandescent during their passage through the earth's atmosphere. Generally speaking, meteors begin to glow at a height of about 65 miles and burn out at 50 miles. However, the larger ones do not burn up and when they reach the earth's surface are termed meteorites. But it is possible that the object which Dan Butcher mentions was not a "true" fireball at all, especially as it was moving slowly on a horizontal plane. It may well have been a globular UFO.

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+   S.I.G.A.P. Titbits             +
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About 25 people attended S.I.G.A.P.'s second annual meeting, held on May 7 at the Plastic Coatings factory, Guildford. Secretary Dick Beet, who opened the meeting, told members that the group had made excellent progress during the year. Membership had more than doubled since the first annual meeting and 92 UFO reports had been investigated since the group was formed.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:-
Chairman - Omar Fowler; Secretary - Dick Beet; Treasurer -
Graham Raine; Newsletter Editor - Ron Toft; Librarian - Mrs. A. Pearce;
Photographic Analyst - Norman Wynn; Foreign Correspondent -
Keith Burnett. The last post is a new one and will entail keeping
in touch with UFO groups throughout the world.

The guest speaker at the meeting was Mr. Ken Miles, who recently visited the small town of Valensole in the French Alps, where a UFO and its occupants are claimed to have been encountered. At about 6 a.m. on July 1, 1965 lavender farmer M. Maurice Masse was just about to start work in his field when he heard a whistling noise. Looking around he saw an oval-shaped machine standing on six legs. Beside it were two small beings. As he advanced towards them one of them pointed something at him and he became transfixed. He couldn't move although he could see what was going on. After a while the creatures got back into their craft and silently took off. When he gained control of his limbs M. Masse rushed to a nearby cafe and told the proprietor what he had seen. Soon the news broke. Perhaps the most interesting part of the story is that no lavender has ever been able to grow in the spot where the craft landed. Mr. Miles showed some excellent slides of the bare patch of land, about 15-20 ft. in diameter, where only weeds grow.

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The next S.I.G.A.P. meeting will be on Tuesday, June 11, at the Plastic Coatings factory, starting at 8 p.m. The main item on the agenda will be the finalising of arrangements for the group's part in the National Sky Watch on Saturday, June 15.

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S.I.G.A.P. member Dan Butcher is interested in correlating UFO dreams to actual sightings. If anyone has experienced such a dream, or knows of anyone who has, would they please send details to Dan, at "The Ridge", Green Lane East, Ash Green. Accounts should be composed, as near as possible, in the form of an actual sighting report, giving details of the shape, colour, sound (if any), altitude and direction of the dream UFO. Other details, such as the dream locality and the date and time of the dream, would also be welcomed. All submitted material will be treated as strictly confidential - if requested.

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+   Letters to S.I.G.A.P.   +  
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From Jimmy Goddard (Secretary of "Contact"), of "Wynchlands", Walton Bridge Road, Shepperton, Middlesex:-

"I was very interested indeed to see the article on ley-phenomena in the S.I.G.A.P. Newsletter. The question is asked as to whether Whitmoor Common, where another "creature" was seen, is also on a ley. It is in fact on a ley which seems to be fairly important in its connections with UFOs. I found this ley some years ago and, in fact, had a skywatch on Whitmoor Common some months ago because of it (though the only "UFO" I saw then was later identified by you as a satellite about to decay!). What I would have done if I had come face to face with the "creature" seen there later I cannot say.

"Be that as it may, this ley passes through several points of interest. It comes in a roughly south-west direction passing through a centre in Finchley where a number of UFOs were seen some years ago. Then it comes through Hendon, where I myself saw an orange hovering object on February 18, 1967. This was in broad daylight at about 10.30 a.m. From here it continues through a church in Hounslow to Sunbury Cross, a junction of several roads which is an important ley centre. Continued further south it goes through Whitmoor Common to a centre on the Hog's Back (where I saw an identical hovering orange UFO on the night of June 24, 1967 - this was also witnessed by members of S.I.G.A.P. and B.U.F.O.R.A. four miles to the east on Pewley Down).

"Coming southwards again this ley passes through a church with a spire in Elstead (about four miles east of Godalming), a track junction on Hankley Common about a mile from Elstead, an area called "Green Cross" $\frac{1}{2}$ mile north of Hindhead, and a "Palmer's Farm" $\frac{1}{2}$ mile north-east of Liss. If my plotting is correct, it also passes through Godshill on the Isle of Wight, which has an interesting legend of angels moving stones - such legends of supernatural beings moving stones etc., abound on leys and could refer to beings from outer space having a hand in building them.

"To return to my sighting from the Hog's Back; the UFO was seen due west both by me and the watchers on Pewley Down, who were four miles due east of me. Thus I think this may have been connected with another ley passing through the same Hog's Back centre (marked by a copse on the side of the Hog's Back). This comes westward through a church with a tower in Bletchingley (about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles east of Redhill), through a group of tumuli on Reigate Heath, then through Newlands Corner (a tumulus there) and Pewley Down to the Hog's Back centre".

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Members will probably remember that a few weeks ago I had a letter published in the "Surrey Advertiser" asking for details of ancient UFO reports. It sparked off the following reply from someone wishing to remain anonymous:

"Being, as you write in the Surrey Advertiser, a fool, I for one deny the existence of UFOs. You would have to be in a very sorry state of health to see one, unlucky, not lucky. A non-drinker like myself could never see one. Now please answer a few questions - why are they not seen by more than one person at a time. What makes you think they come from outer space. It would take thousands of years to reach this planet. Their occupants would have to be of both sexes to enable them to breed on their way, and what would they do about food etc., and getting rid of those that die on the way, or perhaps they eat them! We don't have to worry about what happens if one should happen to land here. As they don't exist they could not land anywhere. Like the Surrey "Puma" they just are not there, but no doubt they will still be seen by the other fools who can always see anything they want to see. They also must keep up with the people who pretend to see these things. Just start something and you can be sure there will be plenty of people to carry on the fun, and if they give other people pleasure good luck to them. But please don't get serious about it." Yours etc., "A Fool".
P.S. "Please carry on your good work. It gives us fools lots of laughs, as did the non-existent Surrey "Puma". What next I wonder?"

Apart from having no logical argument and not being sure of his facts, this individual would do well to improve his grammar before indulging in further "letter-writing".

-Ron Toft

Three more people have joined S.I.G.A.P. They are:-

Mr. Derek Toombs, of 28 Clynmawr Street, Abertillery,
Monmouthshire, Wales.

Mr. Ronald Snow, of 22 Grove Farm, Mytchett Road, Mytchett,
Camberley, Surrey.

Mr. George Newman, of 60 Hazel Avenue, Guildford, Surrey.

The "Sun" newspaper is interested in receiving a copy of our newsletter each month.
